



Otto Zwierlein, *Petrus und Paulus in Jerusalem und Rom: vom Neuen Testament zu den Apokryphen Apostelakten* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter), 2013. ISBN 978-3-11-030331-5.

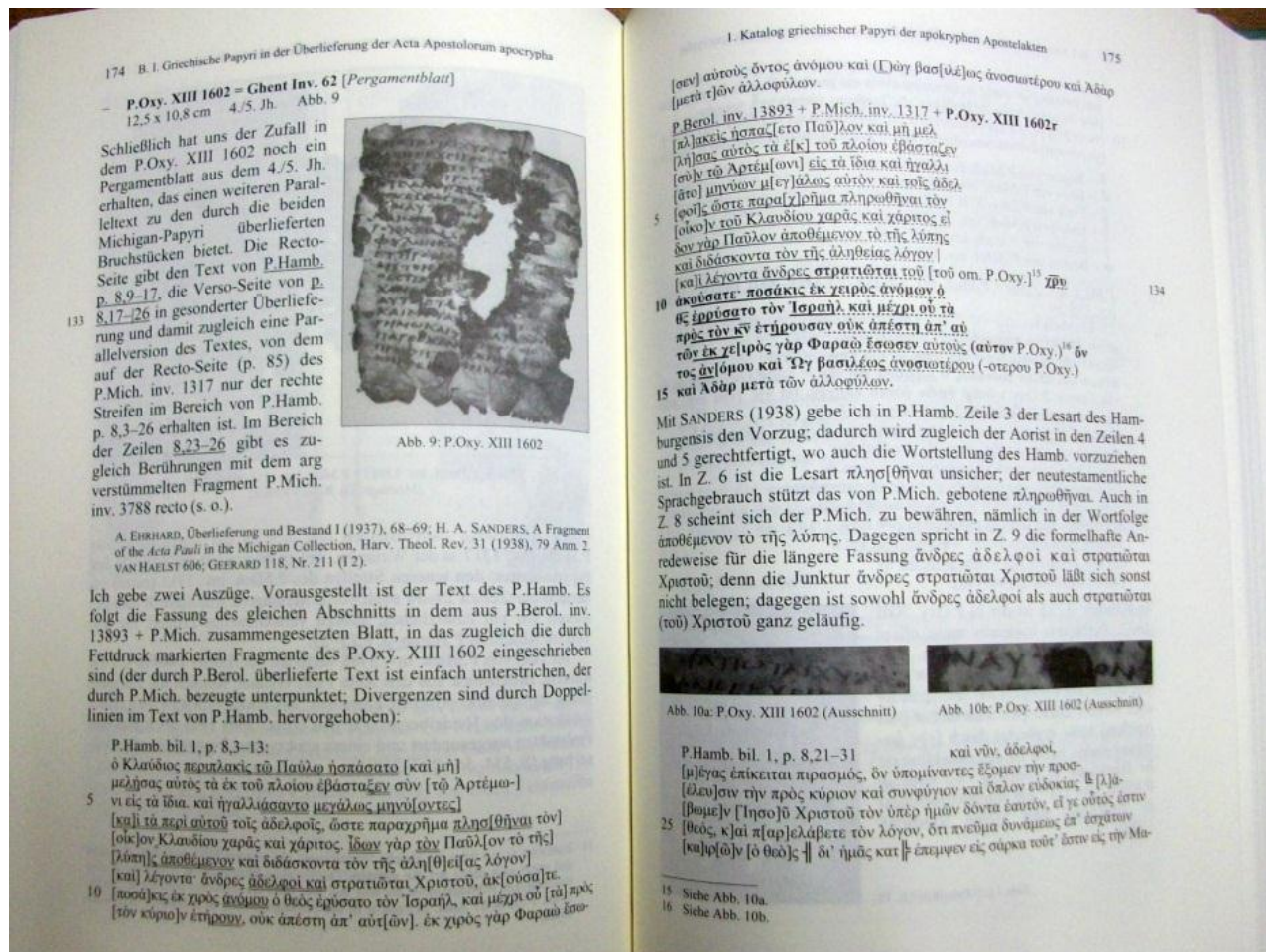
Petrus und Paulus is one of the most carefully argued historical studies that have crossed my desk in a very long time. Its 298 pages of documentation and references and secondary texts and primary texts and photographs leave no doubt of Zwierlein's expertise.

Part A- Petrus in Jerusalem, Paulus in Rom (pp. 1-158). Part B- Apokryphe Apostelakten (pp. 159-262). And Part C- Nachlese zu den Tagungsband S. Heid (Hrsg.), *Petrus und Paulus in Rom. Eine interdisziplinäre Debatte*, Freiburg 2011 (pp. 263-288).

Each part is subdivided further into sections and subsections. So, in Part A, I- Petrus in Rom? Die literarischen Zeugnisse. II- Kritisches zur Römischen Petrustradition und zur Datierung des erstens Clemensbrief. III- Sind Petrus und Paulus in Rom gestorben? IV- Danaiden und Dirken (1 Clem 6,2). And in Part B, I- Griechische Papyri in der Überlieferung der Acta Apostolorum apocrypha. II- Der Briefwechsel der Korinther mit dem Apostel Paulus (3 Kor) im Papyrus Bodmer X und die apokryphen Paulusakten. III- Die Datierung der acta Iohannis und der Papyrus Kellis Gr. Frgm. A.I.

Meticulous, careful scholarship ensure that Z's work will be widely referenced by all those interested in the 'afterlife' of Paul and Peter once they disappear from the pages of the New Testament and 'show up' in early Christian tradition.

Perhaps the most meticulously examined materials are the Greek papyri which Z. investigates on pp. 123ff. Here, the author catalogs the relevant papyri. Frankly, there is no way to really describe the richness of his presentation without 'shortchanging' it, so below, on the next page, is a photo of a couple of pages:



The issue which our author wishes to investigate is a simple one: what really happened to Peter and Paul, and what is the evidence for any suggestions made concerning their fate? Was Peter ever even in Rome? How does Zweierlein answer these questions? What are his conclusions? The curious will just have to read the book. I'm not going to spoil it and quite frankly it would be inappropriate to offer conclusions without going through all the steps Z goes through to – like a detective – uncover all the evidence.

Readers, though, must be warned ahead of time that this volume is not 'easy reading'. It demands one's full attention because the presentation of the evidence is so tightly woven that skipping any part or failing to work through any segment will result in the crumbling of the edifice. If, though, the interested can manage to 'stick with it' they will be richly rewarded and thoroughly informed on the subject.

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